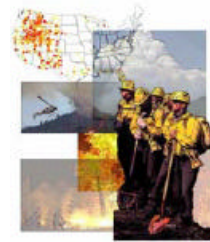


National Fire Plan

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Pacific Southwest Region

California



Concord Fire

Lake Tahoe Basin Mgmt Unit

July 13, 2004

A wildfire occurred in Camp Concord, a summer youth- and family camp in Lake Tahoe, on the evening of July 13, 2004. The cause of the fire was determined to be human caused, and was most likely caused by smoking. A quick response by United States Forest Service and local cooperators kept the fire to ¼ acre, but it had all the campers worried.

Fire Prevention Officer Beth Brady and Fire Prevention Technician Richard Van Fossen were on scene to investigate the fire. There were about 100 kids and 10 families at the camp. During the interviews Beth found out that a campfire event occurred every night at camp, and it would be taking place just as fire suppression were wrapping up. Beth asked if she could do an impromptu session about the fire and fire safety. The camp director agreed it was the perfect opportunity, especially since the kids had lots of questions.



Half of the gang at Concord Camp.

The kids were excited, as you might expect kids at camp to be, but they got very quiet when they heard that the fire had been caused by someone's carelessness. It was easy to discuss lessons about campfire safety, the dangers of matches and cigarettes, and "Good Fire/ Bad Fire" into the lesson. Being encouraged by a bribe of Smokey wrist bands, hands shot into the air each time a question about fire safety was asked. At the end, some time was allowed for an open question-and-answer session, which yielded an amazing array of topics, from smokejumping, to firefighters risking their lives, to arson investigation. At the end, everyone received a Smokey Bear pin.

It was one of the biggest, most enthusiastic and receptive groups of kids Beth has spoken to plus a nice silver lining to the fire.